

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

County: San Mateo County
Department: Environmental Services Agency, Parks and Recreation Division
Prepared by: Ross Nakasone
Phone number: (650) 363-4027
Address: 455 County Center, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1646
E-mail: Rnakasone@co.sanmateo.ca.us
Title of project: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Resource Assessment Project
Project location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo County Coast
Total cost: \$145,934
Funding request: \$145,934

MISSION

To ensure comprehensive and coordinated management, conservation and enhancement of California's ocean and coastal resources for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of current and future generations.

GOALS: Four goals have been established by the State of California to achieve this mission.

Goal 1: Stewardship. To assess, conserve, and manage California's ocean and coastal resources and the ecosystem that supports those resources.

Goal 2: Economic Sustainability. To encourage environmentally sound, sustainable, and economically beneficial ocean and coastal resource development activities.

Goal 3: Research, Education and Technology. To advance research, educational programs, and technology developments to meet future needs and uses of coastal and ocean resources.

Goal 4: Jurisdiction and Ownership. To maximize California's interests in coastal watersheds, State Tidelands, the Territorial Sea, and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Project Summary

Two sentence summary of the project.

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division (County Parks), the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), with the assistance of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), will partner to develop and implement for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve a resource assessment project that will:

- Determine the amount (if any) of resource degradation from visitation, fishing and gathering;
- Propose, relative to visitation, fishing and gathering, various actions that can best protect the Reserve's natural resources; and
- Evaluate how (if at all) these actions will affect those who visit, fish and gather at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Brief Description of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

The Reserve is located along the San Mateo County coast approximately 7 miles north of the City of Half Moon Bay. With 402 acres, the Reserve is essentially a narrow, 3-mile band of shoreline consisting of intermittent beaches, coastal bluffs, and intertidal reefs, which constitute 370 of the Reserve's 402 total acres. The DFG and San Mateo County jointly acquired the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (Reserve) in 1969. While the Reserve was acquired as a marine life refuge, legislation was passed allowing identified marine life species that can be taken from the Reserve without a written permit from DFG. County Parks has, over time, changed the main role of the Reserve from recreational to educational. Jurisdiction above the average high tide rests with County Parks, while DFG has jurisdiction of the Reserve below the high tide line. Portions of the Reserve fall within the boundaries of GGNRA. GFNMS co-manages with MBNMS educational outreach efforts and education research on a case-by-case basis within the MBNMS boundaries off the San Mateo County coast.

The unique conditions of the Reserve (including offshore rocks, sea level rocky reefs, surge channels and mild climate) create a mosaic of habitats that foster a tremendous diversity of marine life. Past studies and monitoring efforts have recorded 164 species (or taxa) of invertebrates, 134 species of algae and marine flora (this number could double with further research), common bird species, and several mammals including harbor seals, sea lions and sea otters. One of California's most biodiverse, intertidal regions accessible at low tide, the intertidal zone is the most popular feature for Reserve visitors. While most of the reefs are accessible only during low tide periods, the reefs receive high levels of use primarily because of the shoreline rock formation, the diversity of marine life and the close proximity to the San Francisco Bay area's dense population centers.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve receives 110,000 annual visitors. Up to 15,000 people may visit the Reserve each month during the peak seasonal use (spring low tides—March through May and during the summer months). Peak use tends to concentrate during low tide weekends with up to 2,000 daily visitors. School groups (elementary through college) constitute 21% of Reserve visitors.

Impacts to the Intertidal Regions.

Visitor use plays an important role in meeting the educational mission of the Reserve. However, many people believe visitor use is also the primary cause of the Reserve's natural resource degradation, especially in the intertidal zone. Since preservation is the other mission of the Reserve, County Parks must balance natural resource preservation and visitor use.

A variety of human activities impact intertidal marine life. Trampling of delicate algae and invertebrates, continued illegal collection of animals, displacement of animals and turning rocks without replacement most significantly impact intertidal marine life. Fishing of near-shore marine fish and under-rock eels and abalone harvesting (abalone harvesting is currently illegal) have also removed animals from the area. The number of visitors heightens the significance of human impacts on the intertidal zone. As noted above, visitation is heaviest from March through June. During low tides on clear spring and summer days, up to 2,000 people can be found walking on top of the Moss Beach Reef, a 350 acre area that receives the Reserve's greatest use.

No scientific study with a high degree of certainty has been conducted to determine the significance of human impacts on the intertidal zone (hence the need for this proposed assessment). However, a monitoring program instituted in 1994 indicates that biodiversity has improved in small areas on Moss Beach Reef protected from human impact. Most scientists familiar with the Reserve agree that many groups of organisms that would be expected are under-represented or absent from the intertidal biota of the unprotected parts of Moss Beach Reef. Generally, there is increased biodiversity in the protected areas. In addition, increases in invertebrate populations occur during the winter and fall months (when high tides and inclement weather lower the number of visitors on the reef). These observations support the view that human impacts adversely affect the marine intertidal community. Available catch-per-hour data for under-rock eels also indicate a decline in eel populations in the Reserve. In response to the monitoring program results, County Parks began, for the first time, development of a Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Master Plan in 1997, which is near completion. The overall goal of the Master Plan is to change the management of the Reserve from a focus on recreation to increased education and natural resource management. Increased collaboration with Federal and state resource agencies will be critical in achieving the goals of the Master Plan.

Many factors indicate a need for an assessment of the Reserves marine resources. The sensitive nature of the intertidal environment, the easily exploitable nature of harvested marine organisms, and the recent, significant reductions in sport and commercial harvest levels of near-shore fishes all raise concerns about potential deterioration of the Reserve's marine resources and habitat. This assessment to determine the impacts of current levels of visitation, fishing and gathering on the Reserve should be undertaken.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Resource Assessment Project

County Parks will administer the assessment. The Department of Fish and Game, GGNRA, GFNMS, MBNMS, and other possible groups will partner with County Parks to create a technical advisory committee to oversee the assessment, provide relevant expertise and advice, and detail elements of the study matter. With the assistance of the technical advisory

committee, County Parks will develop and implement for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve a resource assessment project that will:

- Determine the amount (if any) of resource degradation from visitation, fishing and gathering;
- Propose, relative to visitation, fishing and gathering, various actions that can best protect the Reserve's natural resources; and
- Evaluate how (if at all) these actions will affect those who visit, fish and gather at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

This project will provide information for future decisions regarding Reserve management and establish an information baseline for future scientific research and monitoring activities.

Through this assessment, County Parks can more effectively implement the Reserve Master Plan balancing the need to protect the natural resources while preserving the needs of the public who use the Reserve. The information gathered by this assessment will be used (if warranted) to modify existing management practices at the Reserve. Because DFG has management responsibility to protect the marine resources below the high tide line, the results of this assessment must be consistently applied by both County Parks and DFG. The results of this assessment will be shared with other interested agencies and the public through (at least one) public workshop.

Assessment of the resource degradation from visitation, fishing and gathering.

Assessment of resource degradation from visitation, fishing and gathering must consider the associated activities for each category. The assessment will consider visitor activities including walking on the rocky reefs (trampling algae, sea grasses, kelp and small invertebrates that anchor to the tops of the rocky reefs), turning of rocks, pollution impacts such as litter, and intentional destructive acts. Fishing and gathering related activities will also be evaluated. Activities would include the taking of marine life itself and the effect the taking has on the ecology, food chain and population vacuum it creates. The assessment will also include an impact evaluation of San Vicente Creek waters, which run into the Reserve and rocky reef areas. The creek waters could contain bacteria, sediment, and chemical runoff.

Relative to visitation, fishing and gathering, possible actions that can best protect the natural resources.

While the assessment will develop a variety of proposed actions to reduce negative impacts on marine resources, current suggested actions proposed in the Draft Master Plan will also be evaluated in this resource assessment project. The assessment will consider limiting or prohibiting access, fishing and gathering on the reef as suggested in the Draft Master Plan. Based on a limited amount of data, a 1993 study assessing the impacts of visitor use on the Reserve's marine resources concluded the "carrying capacity" of the reef to be 300-500 daily visitors. According to the study, capping the Reserve to 300-500 daily visitors would prevent *further* deterioration of the Reserve's marine resources. The Reserve Resource Assessment Project, which the Coastal Impact Assistance Program could fund, will evaluate various options. Those options will likely include factors such as access restrictions in specific geographic areas, access restrictions during specific periods of time and restrictions on visitor, fishing and gathering activities (such as rock turning, walking in water-filled tidal pools, and disturbing reef animal life). As part of this analysis, the assessment will also consider ways to best control access into and within the Reserve which has several access points along its three-mile length.

One of the most likely suggested proposals will be the development of an educational and interpretive program to educate visitors about the potentially negative impacts their actions can have on the marine resources at the Reserve.

Evaluation of how the proposed actions could affect visitation, fishing and gathering at the Reserve.

Visitor use plays an important role in meeting the educational mission of the Reserve. Fishing and gathering also play roles in the ecology and communities that come to the Reserve. As a result, the Reserve Resource Assessment project will also evaluate the possible effects the proposed ameliorative actions could have on visitation, fishing and gathering. The assessment will detail the benefits and disadvantages of various approaches to protecting the Reserve's marine resources and develop a preferred approach which both County Parks and DFG would implement.

Consistency with Mission and Goals

The proposed assessment is consistent with the mission and goals of the California Resources Agency. Through a coordinated effort between stakeholders including County Parks, DFG and GGNRA, this resource assessment project will serve as a basis for comprehensive, coordinated management to conserve and enhance California's coastal resources found at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. As noted above, County Parks has management responsibility over areas above the average high tide line, while DFG has management responsibility over waters, marine life and habitats below the high tide line. This assessment would further the mission of the California Resources Agency by ensuring County Parks and its many partners have an agreed baseline of information and suggested solutions from which to coordinate a comprehensive management plan that conserves one of California's most biodiverse rocky reefs while protecting use for future generations.

This assessment is also consistent with the mission and goals of DFG. With the recent passage of AB 993 (1999), DFG is beginning to refocus its mission to include increased protection for marine resources as evidenced by the establishment of the new Marine Life Reserves (MLR) designation. An MLR is a marine protected area in which all extractive activities, including the taking of marine species, and possibly including other activities that upset the natural ecology functions of an area are prohibited. The Reserve's Master Plan recommends a MLR classification when reclassification is considered.

Stewardship.

This project will assist San Mateo County Parks and Recreation to better steward the Reserve. Using this comprehensive assessment of activities that degrade the Reserve's marine resources, County Parks can better understand the impacts (both positive and negative) visiting, fishing and gathering have on the Reserve's resources and ecosystem. The assessment will also include an evaluation of potential ameliorative actions to protect the Reserve's marine resources. This evaluation can guide decision makers including San Mateo County, DFG, and the public in making effective and appropriate decisions about what actions can be taken to better manage the Reserve. This project will also include public workshops to

share the results of the assessment to educate visitors about the impacts their actions can have on the sensitive rocky reef environment.

Economic Sustainability.

This assessment project will also consider the impacts any ameliorative actions may have on visiting, fishing and gathering. As a result, decisions makers will be able to balance the needs of protecting the marine resources of the Reserve with the potential economic impacts such actions could have on visitation, fishing and gathering. Decision makers will have the information needed to modify the existing management practices that are environmentally sound and sustainable.

Research, Education and Technology.

This assessment will also advance research and educational opportunities. The data baseline of impacts on the Reserve's marine resources can provide a foundation for future research and enable further study of the Reserve. The assessment will likely advance educational programs. Using the data created from the assessment, educational programs and interpretive efforts can explain to visitors the impact their activities can have on the Reserve and what actions they should avoid.

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

County: Ventura County
Department: Resource Management Agency, Flood Control District
Prepared by: Vicki Musgrove, Manager Stormwater Quality Section
Phone number: (805) 654-5051
Address: 800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1700
E-mail: vicki.musgrove@mail.co.ventura.ca.us
Title of project: Tri-County FISH Team
Project location: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties
Total cost: \$21,000
Funding request: \$71,000

MISSION

To ensure comprehensive and coordinated management, conservation and enhancement of California's ocean and coastal resources for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of current and future generations.

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Goal 3: Research, Education and Technology. To advance research, educational programs, and technology developments to meet future needs and uses of coastal and ocean resources.

Goal 4: Jurisdiction and Ownership. To maximize California's interests in coastal watersheds, State Tidelands, the Territorial Sea, and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the Tri-County FISH Team is to work with federal, state, and local agencies and non-governmental groups to:

- Secure funding in support of salmonid recovery and habitat enhancement,
- Improve information about restoration and recovery activities, and
- Enhance public understanding and support for such actions in the tri-county area.

To succeed at this goal, the Tri-County FISH Team (FISH Team) will coordinate with local groups to develop a regional restoration approach. This effort will result in a scientifically based Regional Restoration Projects Plan for the tri-county area (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties).

Project Summary:

The FISH Team is a regional organization of federal, state, and local agencies as well as non-governmental groups that work on fishery restoration and recovery issues within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties (the tri-county area). The FISH Team includes participation by each of the three county governments as well as municipalities, special districts, and local watershed organizations (see "Project Participants" below).

The FISH Team has established a structure that allows for public participation and technical oversight of restoration activities within the region. A nine member executive committee heads the FISH Team with three representatives from each county representing three different types of organizations: local government, local special districts, and the public. The executive committee is responsible for directing the activities of the FISH Team with input from group participants. Quarterly, a public meeting of the Tri-County FISH Team is held at which time information is shared among the participants for review and comment.

Overall, the purpose of the Tri-County FISH Team is to provide an information-sharing forum that will help the participating agencies and organizations be more effective in working towards salmonid restoration in their respective geographical areas. The FISH Team intends to accomplish this goal in a number of ways. The FISH Team provides a regional forum for exchange of information on the types of restoration activities that are already occurring in the tri-county area. This process facilitates coordination where subject areas and/or geographic areas overlap between groups and projects. The FISH Team will also provide a regional perspective for restoration actions related to threatened and endangered steelhead. By taking a regional view of the area, attention and resources can be focused in those locations where the greatest positive effect can be achieved.

The Tri-County FISH Team is currently in the process of solidifying its operating procedures and its organization. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is in process to formally establish the group and identify current members, although additional members will be able to join at any time. The next step in the process, for which we are applying for CIAP funding, is to develop a Regional Restoration Projects Plan. The purpose of this plan is to (1) identify the

types of steelhead restoration activities that are already occurring within the region and (2) identify priority projects within the region that will facilitate steelhead recovery.

Identification of steelhead restoration activities within the region will be accomplished through an outreach program. During the formation of the Tri-County FISH Team, attempts were made to publicize the group to attract interested parties. Funding from the CIAP will be used, in part, to distribute a formal outreach letter to the numerous additional agencies and organizations who are interested and active in salmonid restoration. The tri-county area has several local watershed restoration groups that we would like to have participate in our process. In addition, outreach to the resource agencies is needed to gain their assistance in the identification, assessment, and prioritization of proposed projects.

The second part of the Regional Restoration Projects Plan calls for the identification of priority projects within the region that will facilitate steelhead recovery. A Technical Review Committee (TRC) will be established to conduct biological prioritization. The TRC will be made up of fish biologists and fishery restoration experts representing the three counties (9 total). In addition, local representatives from the resource agencies (National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, etc.) will be invited to participate in the technical review process. The purpose of the TRC is to (1) establish a list of biological priorities by which to rank local restoration projects and (2) rank potential local restoration projects based on the priorities.

Currently, agencies and organizations participating in the FISH Team process have a number of individual restoration projects/actions that are in progress, under development, or recommended for implementation. Some of these projects have resulted from watershed restoration planning efforts, and many of these projects have resulted from local efforts. In each case, what is typically missing is a regional approach to the needs of steelhead restoration and recovery. The purpose of the FISH Team's TRC is to review all of the identified projects within their identified framework of biological need and ability of the project to assist in the regional recovery of the listed species. The Tri-County FISH Team understands that there are additional factors that determine whether a project will be successful, beyond merely biological factors (e.g. willingness of landowners within a watershed to support fishery restoration activities). Therefore, once the TRC has completed its biological review of proposed restoration efforts, the FISH Team will then review the projects list and adjust it as necessary based on political and sociological factors.

The Regional Restoration Projects Plan is intended to be a multi-year plan that provides a guide for funding and implementation priorities. There will be a list of projects/restoration actions that should occur in the near term (i.e. higher priority) and projects that should occur in the long term (i.e. lower priority). The FISH Team will update this plan and the TRC as needed based on changes in restoration opportunities, funding opportunities, and resource needs. This Plan will be distributed to local, state, and federal agencies for use in funding decisions and recovery planning.

In summary, the \$21,000 requested, combined with the additional \$25,000 requested from both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, will provide funding for continued operation of the Tri-County FISH Team. The next step in the FISH Team process is the development of

the multi-year Regional Restoration Projects Plan for the San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties area. The Plan will include identification of the agencies and organizations working on steelhead restoration and recovery issues within the region, identification of potential restoration actions, and a multi-year prioritization of those actions.

Consistency with Mission and Goals:

The efforts of the Tri-County FISH Team are consistent with both the mission of the California Impact Assistance Program and the stated goals of the program. The FISH Team has been developed to specifically facilitate the coordinated conservation and enhancement of one of California's threatened and endangered coastal resources, the steelhead trout. In 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service listed steelhead in the tri-county area as threatened and endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The FISH Team's goal is restoration and recovery of the listed steelhead, which will provide for their continued existence for the benefit of future generations. The initial coordination and recovery efforts of the FISH Team are focussed on this sensitive resource. However, understanding that additional fishery resources are sensitive and may perhaps need additional protection and restoration efforts in the future, the Tri-County FISH Team will be already in place to address new species as needed in the future.

The FISH Team will foster stewardship of California's ocean and coastal resources by coordinating local efforts to assess, conserve, and manage California's south-central coast steelhead populations. Currently, a number of mostly uncoordinated local efforts are occurring. The FISH Team proposes to coordinate these efforts so that each can be more effective and so that the region as a whole will realize the most benefit from restoration actions. While these habitat enhancement measures are targeted at the threatened and endangered steelhead, the majority of the enhancement measures will also benefit other coastal resources both fish and wildlife. For instance, modification of passage impediments will benefit coastal lamprey migration and riparian restoration will benefit other native fish, local wildlife, and migratory bird populations. In addition, enhancing public understanding and support for maintaining and restoring salmonid populations is a priority for the FISH Team.

The Tri-County FISH Team is also interested in ensuring that our knowledge about how best to restore the threatened and endangered steelhead improves over time. The FISH Team will be a regional forum in which to share information about what restoration actions have been successful, and which have not, and why. By coordinating restoration efforts, each participating organization can benefit from the experiences of others and make their processes more effective. In addition, the FISH Team is coordinating with other regional groups in the state to share similar information. The regional structure developing within the State of California, of which the Tri-County FISH Team is a part, will provide established avenues of communication for information on the species and restoration and recovery efforts targeted at salmonids and steelhead.

Project Participants:

The Tri-County FISH Team is open to all those with interest in fishery restoration and recovery activities in the San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. Additional outreach to local groups continues, however presented below is a partial list of those working with the FISH Team:

San Luis Obispo County

Cambria Community Services District

City of San Luis Obispo

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

County of San Luis Obispo

Steelhead & Stream Recovery Coalition of the South Central California Coast

Greenspace

The Cambria Land Trust

Land Conservancy, San Luis Obispo

Santa Barbara County

Cachuma Conservation Release Board:

- *City of Santa Barbara*
- *Carpinteria Valley Water District*
- *Goleta Water District*
- *Montecito Water District*

City of Carpinteria

City of Santa Barbara

County of Santa Barbara

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1

Community Environmental Counsel

Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission

South Coast Watershed Alliance

Ventura County

County of Ventura

City of Ventura

Casitas Municipal Water District

United Water Conservation District

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Environmental Coalition of Ventura County

Ojai Valley Sanitary District

Jim Ruch

Ventura County Flood Control District

Matilija Coalition

Regional Associations

California Conservation Corps

California Trout

Environmental Defense Center

Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
Conception Coast Project
California Native Plant Society
South-Central Coast Watersheds Restoration
National Marine Fisheries Service
California Department of Fish and Game

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

County: Santa Barbara County
Department: Public Works, Water Agency
Prepared by: Rob Almy, Water Resources Planning Manager
Phone number: (805) 568-3542
Address: 123 E. Anapamu, Suite 18
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
E-mail: ralmy@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Title of project: Tri-County FISH Team
Project location: Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties
Total cost: \$71,000
Funding request: \$25,000

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Goal 4: Jurisdiction and Ownership. To maximize California's interests in coastal watersheds, State Tidelands, the Territorial Sea, and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Project Summary:

A number of local agencies and organizations within Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties have been working together over the past year to enhance fishery restoration resources in the tri-county area.

In the past, the California Resources Agency has often looked to similar regional groups in the central and northern part of the state for recommendations regarding funding for salmonid restoration projects. Until the formation of the Tri-County FISH Team, there was no similar organization for the Resources Agency to look to in our part of the State.

The Resources Agency is actively seeking groups to provide watershed organization support and assistance at a regional level that can assist in the development of a scientific framework for funding priorities in future years. The purpose of the Tri-County FISH Team is to work with federal, state and local agencies and non-governmental groups to (1) secure funding in support of salmonid recovery and habitat enhancement, (2) improve information about restoration and recovery activities, and (3) enhance public understanding and support for such actions. The FISH Team has already begun to address these important goals.

To date, the Tri-County Fish Team has coordinated a number of cities, counties, local special districts, and local watershed groups to understand what types of projects are occurring in our area. Several projects were submitted from the tri-county area for funding under the recent California Coastal Salmonid Recovery Program. Individual proposal writing efforts sponsored by several participating agencies combined with advocacy provided by the group's representative to the funding Advisory Committee resulted in numerous successful proposals from this area. A total of almost \$1.5 million (11% of the total) went to projects in the tri-county area.

Currently, \$25,000 is being requested by Santa Barbara County and each of the other two counties that participate in the FISH Team. The funding requested will provide the necessary resources for the Tri-County FISH Team to continue to coordinate local efforts in the region and allow the FISH Team to develop a scientifically based, long term regional restoration projects plan. This plan, updated as new projects are identified, will provide a coordinated, regional basis for implementation of restoration efforts. The plan will provide the Resources Agency, county governments, and other funding agencies with a general regional approach to fishery restoration efforts.

Consistency with Mission and Goals:

The project is consistent with the Mission and Goals 1 and 2. It meets Goal 1 in that it will effectively assess, conserve and manage California's coastal resources and the ecosystem that supports those resources. It meets Goal 2 in that it will encourage environmentally sound, sustainable and economically beneficial coastal resource development activities.

In addition, this proposal is consistent with the following authorized uses pursuant to HR 5548:

1. Conservation, restoration, enhancement, protection of coastal or marine habitats;

2. Addressing of watershed protection or other coastal or marine conservation needs which cross jurisdictional boundaries; and
3. Mitigation damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.

By coordinating efforts in the region, more effective enhancement and/or restoration of steelhead habitat will occur. Specifically, by increasing funding for local recovery and enhancement programs, a greater benefit to steelhead populations will be realized sooner.

Project Budget and Schedule:

The Project budget for this project is \$71,000 for 2001-2002. The \$25,000 provided by this grant request will be augmented by \$21,000 and \$25,000 from the Counties of Ventura and San Luis Obispo respectively. These Counties are also requesting these grants from the same source from their own designated funds. The timeline for use of the funds is throughout the 2001-2002 fiscal year, or for one year commencing with authorization to expend CIAP funds, for the Tri-County FISH Team to coordinate the local salmonid restoration efforts in the region and to develop the regional salmonid restoration projects plan.

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY
COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

County San Luis Obispo County
Department: Department of Planning and Building
Prepared by: Nancy E. Rollman, AICP, Environmental Specialist
Phone number: (805) 781-5008
Address: County Government Center, Rm. 310
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040
E-mail: nrollman@co.slo.ca.us
Title of project Tri-County FISH Team
Project location: San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties
Total cost: \$71,000
Funding request: \$25,000

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Project Summary:

The Tri-County FISH Team (FISH) is a regional organization of federal, state, and local agencies as well as non-governmental groups working on fishery restoration and recovery issues within the Tri-County area of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The FISH Team has established a structure that allows for public participation and technical oversight of restoration activities within the region. The FISH Team is headed by a nine-member executive committee with three representatives from each county, representing: Local government, local special districts, and the public. The executive committee is responsible for directing the activities of the FISH Team with input from group participants. Quarterly, a public meeting of the Tri-County FISH Team is held at which time information is shared among the participants for review and comment.

The FISH Team intends to accomplish its goals in a number of ways. The FISH Team provides a regional forum for exchange of information on the types of restoration activities that are already occurring in the tri-county area. The FISH Team will also provide a regional perspective for restoration actions related to threatened and endangered steelhead.

The FISH Team is in the process of solidifying its operating procedures and its organization. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is in process to formally establish the group and identify current members. The next step in the process, for which we are applying for CIAP funding, is to develop a Regional Restoration Projects Plan. The Plan is to (1) identify the types of steelhead restoration activities that are already occurring within the region and (2) identify priority projects within the region that will facilitate steelhead recovery.

Identification of steelhead restoration activities within the region will be accomplished through an outreach program. Funding from the CIAP will be used, in part, to distribute a formal outreach letter to the numerous additional agencies and organizations who are interested and active in salmonid restoration.

The second part of the Regional Restoration Projects Plan calls for the identification of priority projects within the region that will facilitate steelhead recovery. A Technical Review Committee (TRC) will be established to conduct biological prioritization. The TRC will be made up of fish biologists and fishery restoration experts representing the three counties (9 total). In addition, local representatives from the resource agencies (National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, etc.) will be invited to participate in the technical review process. The purpose of the TRC is to (1) establish a list of biological priorities by which to rank local restoration projects and (2) rank potential local restoration projects based on the priorities.

Currently, agencies and organizations participating in the FISH Team process have a number of individual restoration projects/actions that are in progress, under development, or recommended for implementation. The purpose of the FISH Team's TRC is to review all of the identified projects within their identified framework of biological need and ability of the project to assist in the regional recovery of the listed species. Once the TRC has completed its

biological review of proposed restoration efforts, the FISH Team will then review the projects list and adjust it as necessary based on political and sociological factors.

The Regional Restoration Projects Plan is intended to be a multi-year plan that provides a guide for funding and implementation priorities. There will be a list of projects/restoration actions that should occur in the near term (i.e. higher priority) and projects that should occur in the long term (i.e. lower priority). This plan will be updated by the FISH Team and the TRC as needed based on changes in restoration opportunities, funding opportunities, and resource needs. This Plan will be distributed to local, state, and federal agencies for use in funding decisions and recovery planning.

In summary, the \$25,000 requested, combined with the additional \$25,000 requested from both Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, will provide funding for continued operation of the Tri-County FISH Team. The next step in the process is the development of the multi-year Regional Restoration Projects Plan for the Tri-Counties area. The Plan will include identification of the agencies and organizations working on steelhead restoration and recovery issues within the region, identification of potential restoration actions, and a multi-year prioritization of those actions.

Consistency with Mission and Goals

The efforts of the Tri-County FISH Team are consistent with both the mission of the California Impact Assistance Program and the stated goals of the program. The FISH Team has been developed to specifically facilitate the coordinated conservation and enhancement of one of California's threatened and endangered coastal resources, the steelhead trout. In 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service listed steelhead in the Tri-County area as threatened and endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The FISH Team's goal is restoration and recovery of the listed steelhead which will provide for their continued existence for the benefit of future generations. The initial coordination and recovery efforts of the FISH Team are focused on this sensitive resource. However, understanding that additional fishery resources are sensitive and may perhaps need additional protection and restoration efforts in the future, the Tri-County FISH Team will be already in place to address new species as needed in the future.

The FISH Team will foster stewardship of California's ocean and coastal resources by coordinating local efforts to assess, conserve, and manage California's south-central coast steelhead populations so that each effort can be more effective and so that the region as a whole will realize the most benefit from restoration actions. While these habitat enhancement measures are targeted at the threatened and endangered steelhead, the majority of the enhancement measures will also benefit other coastal resources both fish and wildlife. For instance, modification of passage impediments will benefit coastal lamprey migration and riparian restoration will benefit other native fish, local wildlife, and migratory bird populations. In addition, enhancing public understanding and support for maintaining and restoring salmonid populations is a priority for the FISH Team.

The FISH Team is also interested in ensuring that our knowledge about how best to restore the threatened and endangered steelhead improves over time. By coordinating restoration efforts, each participating organization can benefit from the experiences of others and make their processes more effective. In addition, the FISH Team is coordinating with other regional groups in the state to share similar information. The regional structure developing within the State of California will provide established avenues of communication for information on the species and restoration and recovery efforts targeted at salmoides and steelhead.

Project Participants:

The Tri-County FISH Team is open to all those with interest in fishery restoration and recovery activities in the San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. Additional outreach to local groups continues, however presented below is a current list of those working with the FISH Team:

Project Participant List

San Luis Obispo County

Cambria Community Services District
City of San Luis Obispo
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
County of San Luis Obispo
Greenspace, The Cambria Land Trust
Steelhead & Stream Recovery Coalition of
the South Central California Coast

Santa Barbara County

Cachuma Conservation Release Board:
- City of Santa Barbara
- Carpinteria Valley Water District
- Goleta Water District
- Montecito Water District
City of Carpinteria
City of Santa Barbara
Community Environmental Council
Conception Coast Project
County of Santa Barbara
Environmental Defense Center
Santa Barbara County Fish & Game
Commission
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation
District, Improvement Dist. No. 1
South Coast Watershed Alliance

Ventura County

Casitas Municipal Water District
City of Ventura
County of Ventura
Friends of the Ventura River
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Ojai Valley Sanitary District

Regional Associations

California Conservation Corps
California Trout

Project Completion Schedule and Quarterly Expenditure Plan:

Grant Project		Grant Amount	Mar-June 2002	July-Sept 2002	Oct-Dec 2002	Jan-Mar 2003	Mar-June 2003	July-Sept 2003
1	Restoration Plan	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500		
2	Recovery Activities	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$1,500				
3	Recovery Issues	\$6,000		\$3,000	\$3,000			
4	Proposed Projects	\$5,000			\$2,500	\$2,500		
5	Priority Projects	\$2,000				\$1,000	\$1,000	
	Total for Fish	\$25,000						